(b) if so, whether the project is subject to approval from the United Nations since Iraq faces US sanctions;

(c) whether these projects would be build up against exchange of crude oil;

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) how many projects, out of 14 would be implemented during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. As Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Government of Iraq covering various aspects of cooperation in railway sector such as new railway projects, sky bus metro, sleeper factory, exchange of expertise & training, supply of services, materials and equipments, etc. through Konkan Railway Corporation. However, there is no mention of project cost.

(b) The matter has been referred to Ministry of External Affairs to take up this issue with UN, if considered appropriate.

(c) The financing mechanism has not been stated in the MoU.

(d) It would depend upon the detailed contract agreement and specific proposals from Government of Iraq.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

Suicide attempts on Kolkata metro track

5479. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicide attempts is on the increase on Kolkata Metro-High Volt rail track;

(b) whether it is also a fact that besides, legal implications, the incidents are causing much inconvenience to the Metro rail users; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to coordinate the relative role of the Police and Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. On account of suicide cases or attempt thereof, Metro Train Services are disrupted. The particular track is suspended till the dead body is removed because traction power is required to be switched off.

(c) RPF, Metro Railways Police and the Ticket checking staff have been instructed to keep vigilance over the commuters. Regular Co-ordination meeting is held with Railway Police authorities.

New pension scheme for railway employees

5480. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is going to introduce a new pension scheme for the railway employees,

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the view of railway workers in respect of this scheme; and

(d) by when it is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways would introduce a new Pension Scheme for railway employees if a final decision is taken by the Government of India to introduce a new Pension Scheme for all Central Government employees. Since the existing Railway Pension Scheme is based on the existing Central Government Pension Scheme, any new scheme for Railway employees would also be based on the new Pension Scheme decided upon by the Central Government for all Government employees.

(b) to (d) The Railway employees are governed by the Pension Scheme formulated by the Department of Pension & Pensioners; Welfare (DOP&PW), the nodal department of the Government of India on pension policy matters under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. The features of the new Pension Scheme and the date from which the scheme will become effective are not known to the Ministry of Railways as a decision in this respect is yet to be taken by the DOP&PW. As the decision of the DOP&PW on pensionary matters in respect of all